



## Tale of a ticket

**W**hen the delegates in attendance at the 68th Biennial National Convention voted to endorse and work for President Obama's re-election, despite our disappointment with his position on Saturday delivery, the decision was based on what was best for letter carriers. Your job. Your standard of living. Your retirement. Your benefits. Your future.

As President Rolando stated in his article in last month's *Postal Record*, all members have the right to vote as they please. I simply offer the following as additional information on why Mitt Romney was not the NALC's choice for an endorsement at the convention. What you do with this information at the polls this November is your choice.

**It came as no surprise, really, that there was virtually no support for Romney at the convention considering Romney's anti-union views. If you aren't convinced that Romney is anti-union, go to our website and watch the "Our Fight, Our Future" video located on the convention page. The video contains clips of Romney stating the following:**

- "I've taken on union bosses before. I'm happy to take 'em on again."
- "I support Question 2 and Governor Kasich's effort to restrict collective bargaining." (Question 2 was a vote placed on the November 2011 ballot in Ohio. A "yes" vote on Question 2 meant that you supported Gov. Kasich's legislation to restrict public workers' rights to bargain collectively in Ohio. The measure was overwhelmingly struck down by Ohio voters.)
- He also called union members "union stooges" on numerous occasions and stated publicly that he will fight for "right to work" laws and to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act, a 1931 federal law that established the requirement to pay prevailing wages on public works projects.

It was because of these facts that the endorsement choice for Obama was an easy one. The choice was clear: Letter carriers will be much better off with Obama than with Romney.

**Then, just two weeks after our convention, Romney selected Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) as his running mate. Had**

the delegates known at that time that Ryan would be Romney's choice to run as vice president, I believe the choice would have been even easier. And here is why:

Ryan is chairman of the House Budget Committee and was the author of a 2012 budget proposed that would have made massive cuts to federal programs. In case you've forgotten what the House 2012 proposal entailed, here are some of the low-lights:

- Ryan's 2012 budget plan called for letter carriers—and all federal workers—to dramatically increase our pension contributions. Federal employees covered by FERS contribute 0.8 percent of payroll to their pension plans. Under Ryan's plan, their contributions would increase to half the cost of the defined benefit they receive at retirement—which currently stands at 12.6 percent. The contribution increases would effectively cut pay for carriers covered by FERS by 6 percent. If the same policy were applied to CSRS employees, employee contributions would rise from 7 percent to 12.2 percent. For FERS and CSRS employees, this would amount to a pay cut between \$2,700 and \$3,300 annually for most carriers.
- Ryan's budget plan also called for trillions of dollars in cuts to Medicare, ending the program as it now is structured and replacing it with a voucher system for purchasing private health care. It also called for using the Medicare savings to fund a permanent extension of the Bush tax cuts and to expand tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.
- The budget plan also slashed college aid for low-income students and called for the creation of a commission to propose Social Security cuts.

And just this year, Ryan pushed a stand-alone bill to make all federal and postal workers pay 5 percent more in contributions to their pensions—effectively cutting their pay by 5 percent. The House passed Ryan's measure. The Senate has not acted on them as of the writing of this article.

The choice of Ryan as Romney's ticket mate has made it all more clear that electing Romney as president would be disastrous for letter carriers.

**Again, your vote, your choice. But I would ask you to consider following NALC's lead—it is based on what's best for you as a letter carrier.**

